

DISTRICT WELCOMES AL RANGEL

The AVAPCD and the regional transportation agency have joined forces to promote the clean air benefits of ridesharing in the Antelope Valley. The “vehicle” for this partnership is none other the Alfonso “Al” Rangel, longtime Account Executive for the Southern California Association of Governments’ (SCAG’s) Rideshare Program, who has signed on to perform double duty as a Business Liaison for the AVAPCD.

Under the terms of an 11-month service contract between SCAG and the AVAPCD, Rangel will serve as the primary contact for participants in the AVAPCD’s Outreach Program, which requires Antelope Valley businesses with 250 or more employees to conduct commute surveys among their employees every two years, and submit the results to the air district. The AVAPCD uses the survey data to calculate vehicle emissions reduced as a result of the employees’ use of alternative commute modes – such as car pooling and public transit – and is required to report the results to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As part of his duties, Rangel will also assist with the AVAPCD’s community outreach and education efforts during local events, and provide support to the Antelope Valley Clean Cities Coalition, which promotes alternate fuel usage and is administered through the AVAPCD.

An employee of the Southern California Rideshare program for the past 17 years, Rangel spends much of his working and free time developing strategies and building relationships designed to promote carpooling, vanpooling, new transit routes, bikeways and Park ‘n Ride facilities in North Los Angeles County. Rangel’s tireless commitment to ridesharing as a means of protecting air quality earned him the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s “Clean Air Award” in 1997 and the AVAPCD’s Achievement in Reducing Emissions (AIRE) Award in 1991.

Elected officials, local business people and the community-at-large have long regarded Rangel as “the” authority on local transportation and air quality issues. According to AVAPCD Operations Manager Bret Banks, it is Rangel’s solid reputation in this arena that mobilized District officials to contract for his services. “Al’s name is synonymous with ridesharing and alternate modes of transportation throughout the Antelope Valley,” stated Banks, adding that “Rangel’s expertise and the relationship he has cultivated during his years with SCAG enhances the legitimacy of our District’s programs and our capacity to reduce air pollution from vehicles, which account for more than 50% of the region’s air emissions.”

While Rangel will continue to be housed primarily at the Southern California Rideshare office in the Palmdale Cultural Center, he will also maintain office space at the AVAPCD’s Lancaster headquarters, which are located at 4330 Division Street, Suite 206. For more information on the AVAPCD’s Transportation Outreach Program, or to contact Rangel, call (661) 723-8070.